

Not a
Pamphlet

A
LETTER

TO A

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
In the COUNTRY,

FROM

HIS FRIEND in LONDON,

Relative to the CASE of

ADMIRAL BYNG:

WITH

Some original PAPERS and LETTERS

Which passed during the Expedition.

Andi alteram Partem.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. COOKE, at the King's-Arms, in Great-
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...A

LETTER to a MEMBER of PARLIAMENT in the COUNTRY,

FROM HIS

FRIEND in LONDON, &c.

Dear SIR,

IN Obedience to your Request, I take this Opportunity of communicating to you, what I have been able to collect concerning the Affair of Mr. BYNG, since your Departure from *London*; and which I do the more chearfully, as I perceive by your Letter, you are one of those, who think, no *Englishman* ought to be convicted, unheard; or executed, unconvicted; and that every Attempt to spirit up popular Prejudice against the Accused, previous to a legal Determination, is not only a Breach of common Humanity, but a Violation of the Law of the Land, which supposes every Man innocent, till by a judicial Enquiry he is found to be otherwise. Had our Countrymen been more generally actuated by these just and humane Sentiments, what Reams of Paper had remained unpolluted! — what Piles of Fuel unconsumed, and been much more usefully applied, than in the premature Disgrace of a Man, who, for ought we yet know to the contrary, may be destined rather a *Martyr* to *private Policy*, than a *Victim* to *public Justice*!

Upon the Effects of any fatal Mismanagement, you are sensible, it is no unusual *State-Trick*, for those in Power, to devote some Sacrifice (however innocent) to the popular Resentment, and thus, by a Sort of political *Legerdemain*, divert the public Attention from a *real* to an *ideal* Offender: How successfully this ministerial *Hocus-Pocus* has in former Days been played off, History abundantly evinces; nor is it impossible but our future Annals may afford an Instance of a FLEET'S being doomed to ex-

A

piate

piate the Errors of a * * * ; and an ADMIRAL made a *Scape-Goat*, to bear away the Offences of a * * * .

Tho' aware of this Artifice, I will frankly confess, that at first I partook of the general Delusion, and from a Zeal for the Glory of my Country, became a Dupe to the Designs of its most dangerous Enemies.—No one was more clamorous in their Exclamations against the Cowardice of the Admiral.—No one exulted more in the Flames of his Effigy.—But when I reflected, that Execution should rather *follow* than *precede* Conviction, that Clamour was far from being an unerring Proof of Guilt, and found these Measures were encouraged by those very Persons, whose Duty it was to discountenance them; I began to suspect, they might possibly have something more than Truth for their Object, and somewhat less than Honesty for their Motive: Every Day's Practice still more and more confirmed my Suspicions; till at length the Farce became so extravagantly *outré*, that the very Mob discovered the Name of BYNG to be bandied round the Kingdom, only as a *Bubble* to their *proper* Indignation.—The libellous Forgeries, published under the specious Title of *Letters from on Board the Fleet*, were too glaring not to be detected, and the *ridiculous Alarms* of intended Escapes, with all the preventive Engines of Guards, Locks, Bolts, and Bars, only furnished Matter of Contempt and Laughter, as being plainly perceived to mean *something more* than the Security of the Prisoner.—But in Proportion as the enthusiastic Rage of the People against the Admiral abated, it was observable, that, of a *certain* *Junto* increased: They saw their own Security concerned, and, perhaps, for the first Time, joined in a Cry for Vengeance upon a *Failure of Duty in public Employment*. A novel Instance, it must be confessed, of *these Gentlemen's* Patriotism, and certainly has no other Object but *Love of Country* for its Foundation.

But the Treatment I found, Mr. BYNG's Letter met with, sufficiently manifested what Ingenuity he had to expect from his Opposers, who, not being able (as they pretend) to understand it themselves, seem determined that no other Person should; else, why were several Passages in it refused the Benefit of the Press? And then, that Ob-
curity

security imputed to the Author, which those very Castrations had created? Might not, by the same critical Chymistry, *David* be made to chaunt Blasphemy, and *Solomon* utter Foolishness?—But as I am persuaded it will gratify your Curiosity, I shall here insert such Parts of the original Letter, as were not thought proper for the unhallowed Eye of the Public, and by that Means rescue Mr. BYNG's Understanding at least, from any unfavourable Impressions you have received of it, on account of a Piece so partially published in the *impartial* Gazette.

After Mention of being joined by his Majesty's Ship *Phoenix*, off *Majorca*, two Days before; the following Passage is omitted—“by whom I had confirm'd, the Intelligence I received at *Gibraltar*, of the Strength of the *French* Fleet, and of their being off *Mahon*. His Majesty's Colours were still flying at the Castle of St. *Philip's*; and I could perceive several Bomb-Batteries playing upon it from different Parts. *French* Colours we saw flying on the West Part of St. *Philip's*. I dispatched the *Phoenix*, *Chesterfield*, and *Dolphin* a-head, to reconnoitre the Harbour's Mouth, and Capt. *Hervey* to endeavour to land a Letter for General *Blakeney*, to let him know the Fleet was here to his Assistance, tho' every one was of Opinion we could be of no Use to him, as by all Accounts no Place was secured for covering a Landing, could we have spared any People. The *Phoenix* was also to make the private Signal between Capt. *Hervey* and Capt. *Scrope*, as this latter would undoubtedly come off, if it were practicable, having kept the *Dolphin's* Barge with him: But the Enemy's Fleet appearing to the S. E. and the Wind coming at the same time strong off the Land, obliged me to call those Ships in, before they could get quite so near the Entrance of the Harbour, as to make sure what Batteries or Guns might be placed, to prevent our having any Communication with the Castle.”

Again, after giving an Account that the Captain, *Intrepid*, and *Defiance* were much damag'd in their Masts, these Words should have been added;—“so that they were endanger'd of not being able to secure their Masts properly at Sea, and also, that the Squadron in general were

“ were very sickly, many kill’d and wounded, and no
 “ where to put a Third of their Number, if I made an
 “ Hospital of the 40 Gun Ship which was not easy at
 “ Sea.”

Though the *Gazette* indeed informs us, that Mr. Byng call’d a Council of War, and collected the Opinions of the Land-Officers upon the present Situation—it forbears to add—— “ of *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*, and make
 “ sure of protecting the latter; since it was found impracticable to either succour or relieve the former, with
 “ the Force we had; for though we may justly claim the
 “ Victory; yet we are much inferior to the Weight of
 “ their Ships, though the Numbers are equal; and they
 “ have the Advantage of sending to *Minorca* their wounded, and getting Reinforcements of Seamen from their
 “ Transports, and Soldiers from their Camp; all which
 “ undoubtedly has been done in this Time that we have
 “ been laying too to refit, and often in Sight of *Minorca*,
 “ and their Ships have more than once appeared in a Line
 “ from our Mast-heads. I send their Lordships, the Resolution of the Council of War.” Immediately after the following Passage is wholly omitted —— “ I hope
 “ indeed we shall find Stores to refit us at *Gibraltar*, and
 “ if I have any Reinforcement, I will not lose a Moment’s
 “ Time to seek the Enemy again, and once more give
 “ them Battle, though they have a great Advantage in being clean Ships, that go three Feet to our one, and therefore have the Choice how they will engage us, or if they
 “ will at all, and will never let us close them, as their sole View is the disabling our Ships, in which they have
 “ but too well succeeded, though we obliged them to bear
 “ up.”

Nor was the following Article thought proper to be inserted —— “ I cannot help urging their Lordships for a
 “ Reinforcement, if none are yet sail’d on their Knowledge of the Enemy’s Strength in these Seas, and which,
 “ by very good Intelligence, will in a few Days be
 “ strengthened by four more large Ships from *Toulon*, almost ready to sail, if not now failed to join them.”

The *Gazette*, in another Part, inserts these Words,
 “ making the best of my Way to *Gibraltar*,” instead of to
 COVER

COVER *Gibraltar*; and here, by the Way, let me observe, that there is a deeper Design in the Omission of this *single Word*, than perhaps you may at first be aware of: It was doubtless thought, this significant *Word* might chance to furnish too great an Insight into the *real Orders* of the Admiral; and it was much more for the Interest of some particular Persons, that the People should rather believe Mr. Byng went of *his own Accord* to screen himself at *Gibraltar*, than that he went thither, in consequence of *his Orders* to COVER it.

These, Sir, are the *mortifying Members* of the Admiral's Letter, which some State-Surgeons deemed necessary for Amputation.—— These the *unintelligible Passages*, which, out of mere Mercy to his Intellects, they so humanely concealed from public Derision; yet I must confess myself so uncourtly a Critic, as to imagine that I have seen much greater Violence committed both on Sense, and Language, in a much *shorter Epistle* under the authoritative Pen, of a modern State Secretary.—— But you, Sir, will readily perceive, that however *Form* may be the Pretence, *Matter* was the real Cause of this unprecedented Abridgment; since there appears hardly an Article in these *proscrib'd Passages*, which does not reflect more Dishonour upon Councils than Arms, and shews, what little Advantage we are to expect over our Enemies from the *latter*, unless assisted by Wisdom and Integrity in the *former*.

Though the People were graciously suffered to share some Morfels of the above-mentioned Intelligence, and like, *Lazarus*, were fed with the Crumbs which fell from the rich Man's Table; yet, it seems, they were not always to be permitted the same Indulgence; since another Letter from the Admiral was thought of too delicate a Nature even to pass the Confines of a C—b—t.

“ *Ramillies in Gibraltar Bay, May 4. 1756.*

“ *S I R,*

“ THIS comes to you by Express from hence by the
“ Way of *Madrid*, recommended to Sir Benjamin
“ *min*

“ *min Keene*, his Majesty’s Minister at that Place, to be
“ forwarded with the utmost Expedition.”

“ I arrived here with the Squadron under my Com-
“ mand, the 2d Instant in the Afternoon, after a tedious
“ Passage of twenty-seven Days, occasioned by contrary
“ Winds and Calms, and was extremely concerned to
“ hear from Capt. *Edgcumbe* (who I found here with the
“ Princess *Louisa* and *Fortune Sloop*) that he was obliged
“ to retire from *Minorca*, the *French* having landed on
“ that Island by all Accounts from thirteen to fifteen
“ thousand Men.”

“ They sailed from *Toulon* the 10th of last Month, with
“ about one hundred and sixty, or two hundred Sail of
“ Transports, escorted by thirteen Sail of Men of War;
“ how many of the Line I have not been able to learn
“ with any Certainty.”

“ If I had been so happy to have arrived at *Mahon*, be-
“ fore the *French* had landed, I flatter myself, I should
“ have been able to have prevented their getting a Footing
“ on that Island; but as it has so unfortunately turned out,
“ I am firmly of Opinion, from the great Force they have
“ landed, and the Quantity of Provisions, Stores and
“ Ammunitions of all Kinds they brought with them, that
“ the throwing Men into the Castle, will only enable it to
“ hold out but a little Time longer, and add to the Num-
“ bers that must fall into the Enemy’s Hands; for the
“ Garrison in time will be obliged to surrender, unless a
“ sufficient Number of Men could be landed to dislodge
“ the *French*, or raise the Siege; however, I am deter-
“ mined to sail up to *Minorca* with the Squadron, where
“ I shall be a better Judge of the Situation of Affairs there,
“ and will give General *Blakeney* all the Assistance he shall
“ require; though I am afraid all Communications will
“ be cut off between us, as is the Opinion of the Chief
“ Engineers of this Garrison (who have serv’d in the
“ Island) and that of the other Officers of the Artillery,
“ who are acquainted with the Situation of the Harbour;
“ for if the Enemy have erected Batteries on the two
“ Shores near the Entrance of the Harbour (an Advantage
“ scarce to be supposed they have neglected) it will ren-
“ der

“ der it impossible for our Boats to have a Passage to the
 “ *Sallee* Port of the Garrison.”

“ By the inclosed List, delivered to me by Capt. *Edg-*
 “ *cumbe*, their Lordships will observe the Strength of the
 “ *French* Ships in *Toulon*, and by the Copy of a Letter
 “ from *Marseilles*, to General *Blakeney*, which I herewith
 “ transmit to you, their Lordships will perceive the Equip-
 “ ment the *French* have made on this Occasion. It is to
 “ be apprehended, when they have got all the Ships they
 “ possibly can ready for Service, they may think of turn-
 “ ing their Thoughts this Way.”

“ If I should fail in the Relief of Port *Mabon*, I shall
 “ look upon the Security and Protection of *Gibraltar* as
 “ my next Object, and shall repair down here with the
 “ Squadron.”

“ I am sorry to find, upon enquiring of the Naval
 “ Officer here, that there are few or no Stores in the Ma-
 “ gazines to supply any of the Squadron that may be in
 “ Want of them; and it appears by a Letter I have re-
 “ ceived from the Store-keeper and Master Ship-wright,
 “ that the careening Wharfs, Store-houses, Pits, &c. are
 “ entirely decay'd, and I am afraid we shall find great
 “ Difficulty in getting them repair'd, there being no Arti-
 “ ficers to be got here, and at present he can have no
 “ Assistance from the Carpenters of the Fleet on Ac-
 “ count of our Sailing.”

“ It requiring a proper Person to inspect into and man-
 “ age those Affairs, I have taken upon me to give Mr.
 “ *Milbourne Marsh* (His Majesty's Naval Officer that was
 “ at *Mabon*, and who came down with Capt. *Edgcumbe*)
 “ an order to act as Master Ship-wright, which, I hope,
 “ their Lordships will approve, and have given him Orders
 “ to use his best Endeavours to put the Wharf, &c. in
 “ the best Condition he can, for very soon they will be
 “ wanted, as I apprehend, this is the only Place the Ships
 “ Squadron can come to refit, and many of them are in
 “ Want of Repairs and Careening; particularly the *Port-*
 “ *land*, who has not been cleaned these twelve Months,
 “ nor the *Chesterfield*, ten; besides many of the Ships that
 “ came out with me are foul: I fear from the Inconveni-
 “ encies we shall meet with here, there will be great Dif-
 “ ficulty

" ficulty in keeping the Ships clean, as there is but one
" Wharf for them to prepare and careen at."

" By a Council of War, held by General *Fowke*, a
" Copy of which is herewith transmitted, it was not
" thought proper to send a Detachment equal to a
" Battallion for the Relief of *Minorca*, as it would e-
" vidently weaken the Garrison of *Gibraltar*, and be no
" way effectual to the Relief of that Island for the Rea-
" sons therein given: but, as I had represented that there
" was a Deficiency of Men on board the Ships late un-
" der the Command of Capt. *Edgcumbe*, on account of
" his having left a Number of Sailors and Marines at
" *Minorca* to assist in the Defence of that Place, and that
" it was necessary to send a Detachment on board those
" Ships to help to mann them, this the General complied
" with, and I shall distribute some Seamen from the
" Ships that came out with me to compleat their Com-
" plement."

" The *Chesterfield*, *Portland* and *Dolphin* are on their
" Passage from *Mahon* for this Place. The *Phoenix* is
" gone to *Leghorn* by Order of Capt. *Edgcumbe* for Let-
" ters and Intelligence; and the *Experiment* is cruizing
" off *Cape Pallas*, who I expect in every Hour."

" By a Letter from Mr. *Banks*, our Consul at *Cartha-*
" *gena*, to General *Fowke*, dated the 21st of *April*, it ap-
" pears, that twelve Sail of *Spanish* Men of War are or-
" dered for *Cadiz* and *Ferrol*, which are expected at that
" Port, but on what Account he could not tell the Go-
" vernor."

" We are employed in taking in Wine and compleat-
" ing our Water with the utmost Dispatch, and shall let
" no Opportunity slip of sailing from hence.

" Herewith I send you enclosed a Copy of such Papers
" as have been delivered me, which I thought necessary
" for their Lordship's Inspection.

" I am,

§ S I R,

" Your most humble Servant,

Hon. J—n C—d, Esq;

" J. B.

The

The Receipt of this Letter may be fixed as the *Æra* of Mr. BYNG's destined Disgrace — Some discerning Politicians at Home, were, it seems, so eminently indued with the Gift of *Second-sight*, as to foresee, in the Contents of it, that the Admiral — *would not fight*, — and what they so miraculously *foresaw*, they made no Scruple to *foretel*; while every Hireling-Tongue was employed to propagate the *Oracle* throughout the Kingdom. — I know not, Sir, what you may be able to do, but for my Part, I have not Skill enough in the Art of Divination, to discover the *pessimous Prognostics* in this Letter; and am not ashamed, to acknowledge myself so little read in the Rudiments of Court-Logic, as not to be able to see the necessary Connection between Mr. Byng's preparing (as he says) with the utmost Dispatch to *meet* the Enemy, and his Design to *run away* from them — This, indeed, I can perceive, and without any supernatural Degree of Inspiration, that there are several Articles in the Admiral's Letter of too uncourtly a Strain, to recommend him to some Persons Favour, and therefore it may be possible, those invidious Forebodings of his *future* Cowardice might proceed rather from a Spirit of Persecution, than that of Prophecy.

How must those, entrusted with the Management of public Affairs, relish Mr. BYNG's confirming that general and indelible Reproach of his being sent *too late*, and that a timely Dispatch might have prevented even a single *Frenchman* setting his Foot upon the devoted Island? — How must his formidable Account of the Enemy's Force and Preparations, falsify the Predictions of those, who represented them as the mere Phantoms of our Imagination? — May not the Complaint of the ruinous Condition of the Wharfs, Pits, and Store-houses at *Gibraltar*, together with the almost total Want of *necessary Stores* for the Security of the Fleet, prejudice in his Disfavour those, to whose Province, the Care of these Affairs more particularly belong? — May not the *Foulness* of his Ships be deemed a Secret improper to be divulged, after the so much boasted Excellency of his Equipment? — In short, does not the whole Piece, rather unluckily contain an actual Proof of some *other* Person's Failure in Duty, than afford any prophetic Tokens of his *own*?

I believe, by this Time, you are at no Loss to account for the Motives, which induced the Concealment of this Letter; the vindictive Effects it must have produced, and consequently, the present unpopular Situation of its Author, who seems to labour under the Calumny of having *done those Things which he ought not to have done*; only to screen others from the Imputation of having *left undone those Things which they ought to have done*.

The Disingenuity of Mr. BYNG's Adversaries is particularly remarkable, in the constant Anticipation of their Vengeance; for, as it was thought convenient to implant in the Minds of the People, a Suspicion of his Cowardice, before it could possibly be known, *whether he would fight*; so it was deemed equally expedient, to supercede him, before it could be fairly known, *whether he had fought*; for, previous to any authentic Account of the Engagement to the Admiralty, the following Dismission was very expeditiously dispatched from it.

“ S I R,

“ **H**IS Majesty having received an Account, that the
 “ Squadron under *your* Command, and that of the
 “ *French* under the Command of Monsieur *Galissoniere*,
 “ came to Action off of the Harbour of *Mahon*, the 20th
 “ of last Month, and that the *French* (tho' inferior to you
 “ in Force) kept before the Harbour, and obliged you to
 “ retreat; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners
 “ of the Admiralty, to send you herewith an Extract of
 “ Monsieur *Galissoniere*'s Letter to his Court, giving an
 “ Account of the Action, and to acquaint you, that his
 “ Majesty is so much dissatisfied with your Conduct, that
 “ he has ordered their Lordships to recal yourself and Mr.
 “ *West*, and to send out Sir *Edward Hawke*, and Rear-
 “ admiral *Saunders*, to command the Squadron.”

Now,

[11]

" I am extremely sorry to be obliged to inform you of
" such a disagreeable Event, being with great Regard,

" S I R,

" Your most obedient humble Servant,

* * *

Admiralty-Office, June 8. 1756.

Now,

Now, Sir, is it to be credited, that this *Death-warrant* to the Reputation, as well as Power of an Admiral, should have no other Foundation, than the *mistaken Supposition* of his retreating from an inferior Force, † and the *Authority* of a Letter, from his Competitor for Victory?—Have the partial Accounts, generally given by the *French* of

† Hon. Admiral BYNG's Squadron when he engaged *Monfieur de la Galiffoniere's* off *Cape Mola*, the 20th of *May* 1756.

Ship's Names.	GUNS.	Weight of Metal on the			Men.
		Lower Deck.	Middle Deck.	Upper Deck.	
		lb.	lb.	lb.	
Ramilies	90	32	18	12	780
Culloden	74	32		18	600
Buckingham	68	32		18	535
Lancaster	66	32		18	520
Trident	64	24		12	500
Intrepid	64	32		18	480
Captain	64	24		12	480
Revenge	64	24		12	480
Kingston	60	24		9	400
Defiance	60	24		12	400
Princess Louisa	56	24		12	400
Portland	48	24		12	300
Frigates.	778				5875
Deptford	48	24			280
Chesterfield	40				250
Phoenix	22				160
Dolphin	22				160
Experiment	22				160
Total	932				6885
					Monfieur

of their military Exploits, been usually adopted here as Articles of Faith, or what new Confidence have they now acquired, to hallow their Orthodox?— Might not Mr. *Galissoniere* partake too much of the Frailty of his Nation, to give a disadvantageous Testimony of the Success of its Arms,

Monfieur DE LA GALISSONIERE's Squadron when he landed the Troops at MINORCA the 18th of APRIL, and at the Engagement with Admiral BYNG's Squadron off CAPE MOLA, the 20th of MAY, 1756.

SHIPS NAMES.	GUNS.	Weight of Metal on the		SEAMEN.	SOLDIERS.	Total Men on Board each Ship.
		Lower Deck.	Upper Deck.			
		lb.	lb.			
Foudroyant	84	52	24	700	250	950
La Couronne	74	42	24	650	150	800
Le Guerrier	74	42	24	650	150	800
Le Temeraire	74	42	24	650	150	800
Le Redoutable	74	42	24	950	150	800
Le Hipopothame	64	36	24	500	100	600
Le Fier	64	36	24	500	100	600
Le Triton	64	36	24	500	100	600
Le Lion	64	36	24	500	100	600
Le Contant	64	36	24	500	100	600
Le Sage	64	36	24	500	100	600
L'Orphée	64	36	24	500	100	600
Frigates.	828			6800	1550	8350
La Juno	46		18	300		300
La Rose	30		18	250		250
La Gracieuse	30		18	250		250
La Topaze	24		18	250		250
La Nymphé	24		18	200		200
Total	982			8050	1550	9600

This List of the FRENCH Ships, as given by a FRENCH Officer made a Prisoner in a Tartan, the Morning of the Day of Action.

Atms, and of his own Conduct and Valour? But, I believe, this is the first Instance of a *British Admiral* being sacrificed, unheard, to the Romance of a *French One*.— I shall not trouble you with any further Remarks of my own, on this Letter from the Admiralty, since Mr. BYNG's Answer will afford you a much better Comment than I am able to make upon it.

" *Gibraltar-Bay, July 4. 1756.*

S I R,

" **B**Y Sir *Edward Hawke* I have received their Lord-
 " ships Orders, and your Letter of the 8th of
 " *June*, which I have immediately complied with, and
 " have only to express my Surprize at being so ignomini-
 " ously dismissed from my Employment, in the Sight of
 " the Fleet I had commanded, in the Sight of the Garrison,
 " and in Sight of *Spain*, at such a Time, in such a Man-
 " ner, and after such Conduct, as I hope shall shortly ap-
 " pear to the whole World. 'Tis not now for me to ex-
 " postulate; I flatter myself, that Mr. *West* and I shall
 " make evident the Injury done to our Characters, which
 " I know of nothing in the Power of any Being whatever
 " that can atone for; so high an Opinion I have of that,
 " which was ever unsullied before, and which I hope to
 " to make appear has been most injuriously and wrong-
 " fully attacked now, on the Grounds of a false *Gasconade*
 " of an open Enemy to our King and Country, and which
 " would have evidently appeared, had the possible Time
 " been allowed for my own Express's Arrival, in which
 " there was nothing false, nothing vaunting, nothing shame-
 " ful, nor any Thing which could have prevented our re-
 " ceiving his Majesty's royal Approbation, for having,
 " with a much inferior Force, sought, met, attacked,
 " and beat the Enemy: Of this, it is needless for me to
 " say more at present, than that I am sorry to find Mr.
 " *West*, with the Captains, Lieutenants, and Officers of
 " the Ships we had our Flags on Board of, are to be Suf-
 " ferers for what I alone, as Commander in Chief, am
 " answerable: But it is so much of a Piece with the
 " whole

“ whole unheard of Treatment I have met with, that neither They, the Fleet, or Myself can be more astonished at that particular than at the whole.

“ I am,

“ S I R,

“ Your very humble Servant,

“ J. B.

To

The Hon. J—n C—d, Esq;

You, Sir, who are so discerning a Judge of human Nature, will find no Difficulty to discover whether this is an unaffected, unstudied Remonstrance, or a disguised Artifice in the Author: The Time, the Occasion, and the Circumstances under which it was wrote, must manifest them to be the Expostulations of a Man, rather conscious of *Injury* than *Guilt*; the Dictates of a Heart jealous of Honour, not of a Head studious of Security; and though it does not amount to a *positive* Exculpation of Guilt, must afford every unprejudiced Person a *presumptive* Evidence of Innocence;—yet by a peculiar Fatality attending the Admiral, this very Letter was to draw on him an Accumulation of Vengeance; its *Smartness* (to use the Phrase of his Adversaries) was deemed a Kind of Treason against their Dignity; and a modest Vindication of his own Conduct was construed into an insolent Impeachment of theirs; nor, indeed, do they seem to be much out in this Construction; since such is the Alternative, that what tends to exculpate the One, will be no very favourable Article towards the Justification of the Other; and to this CRITICAL ALTERNATIVE, I fear, it is, we may impute the *whole unheard of Treatment* Mr. BYNG complains to have met with.

Though the Length of this Letter may already prove, how much I am inclined to satisfy your Curiosity, I should still proceed to communicate some farther *Anecdots* of this important Affair, and convince you, that Disingenuity is the least Injury that has been offered the Admiral on this Occasion; but as this must necessarily include Facts, essential

sential to his future Defence, Honour and Justice forbid a present Discovery of them; and as they have been intrusted to me under the Seal of Secrecy, I am persuaded I shall not forfeit your Esteem, for not suffering even our Friendship to extort them from me; yet, thus far I may venture to hint, That, when you shall view this exploded SEA PIECE in its original Purity, you will find it very different from those fallacious Copies, which have been palmed upon the Public, by some prostitute Pencils, as genuine.—You will find there no dastardly Timidity in the Commander, no Dissatisfaction among the Officers at his Conduct; you will see the different Divisions mutually assisting each other to the utmost of their Power;—a Fleet, bravely repulsing an Enemy of much greater Force, and obliging them to seek for Safety, in the Advantage of a superior Speed; in short, you will see the *British* Flag (under the most disadvantageous Circumstances, even from its first setting out) performing all that Conduct and Courage could effect, and then, obliged in Prudence, to wait for those Reinforcements, which alone could insure its Security, and render its future Opposition of any Avail.—This, I presume, would afford you a very sensible Pleasure, not from any private or partial Respect to Mr. BYNG, but from the Satisfaction to find, that whatever Loss or Dishonour the Nation may have sustained from this unfortunate Affair, it is not owing at least to any Deficiency of *Naval Spirit*, on which the Wealth and Glory of this Kingdom so essentially depend.—But to conclude. Notwithstanding the present Din of Defamation, and sanguinary Calls for Vengeance; I need not warn a Person of your Ingenuity, to suspend your Sentence till, upon a fair and candid Trial, the Admiral shall be found (what at present I have great Reason to believe him very invidiously misrepresented to be) a *Son*, unworthy of his *Father*, —A *Native* unworthy of his *Country*,—and an *Officer* unworthy of his *Command*.

I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

F I N I S.